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Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de León's Legislation to Support Funding for a California Homeland Security Training Center Approved By Policy Committee

SACRAMENTO—Assistant Majority Leader Kevin de León's Assembly Bill 525, which directs the Director of the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) to examine state and federal funding options for the establishment of a homeland security training center in California, was approved with bi-partisan support today by the Assembly Governmental Organization Committee.

"Despite having the 8th largest economy in the world with several major urban centers, and having hundreds of miles of coastline to protect, we do not have a comprehensive training and command center for our first responders," said Assistant Majority Leader De León. "The creation of a homeland security center to ensure that we have the capacity to respond to and mitigate major natural and man-made disasters is long overdue."

"As Sheriff, it is my duty to ensure the safety of everyone who lives, works, and visits Los Angeles County," stated Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. "In this nation's recent past, we have seen the devastation of certain disasters, both natural and man-made. This legislation will put California on track to create an Emergency Operations Center, which will be a multi-agency and multi-discipline center. These entities, after having the opportunity to train together and share resources, will be able to respond timely and effectively to disasters in this state. AB 525 is critical for public safety for all Californians."

This measure is sponsored by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. AB 525 will next be heard in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

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